6. (Amended) An image processing method comprising:

obtaining first processed image data by performing image processing on original image data; and

placing bits for describing information different from information of said first processed image data in specific bit positions of pixel data, each of the pixel data being expressed by using multiple bits, at predetermined positions of said first processed image.

11. (Amended) A recording medium in which a program for a computer is stored, wherein said program is one that enables the computer to perform the following processing:

placing bits for describing information different from information of image data, said processed image data being obtained by image processing on original image data in specific bit positions of pixel data, each of the pixel data being expressed by using multiple bits, at predetermined positions of said processed image.

Please cancel claims 16-20 without prejudice or disclaimer.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, and 11 have been amended for clarity and to specify that each of the pixel data is expressed by using multiple bits. Claims 16-20 have been cancelled.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because, according to the Examiner, the claims recite "apparatus" in the preamble but fail to describe an apparatus in the body of the claim. Independent claim 1 has been amended to clearly define an image processing apparatus. Claims 2-5, which depend upon claim 1, now likewise clearly define an image processing apparatus.

Claims 16-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 16-20 have been cancelled, making this rejection moot. Pending claims 11-15

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